

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

L-03 NEA-10 SY-10 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 M-03 OC-06 PRS-01

RSC-01 SS-15 USSS-00 FAA-00 AID-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SCA-01 AF-10 RSR-01 PM-07 PA-03 /166 W

----- 003618

O 032100Z AUG 73 ZFF6

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8962

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2776

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UN, BE

SUBJ: BELGIAN PROPOSAL ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES

REF: BRUSSELS 4432

1. AFTER MISOFF HEARD FROM VAN BRUSSELIN THAT GOB
HAD INSTRUCTED MISSION HERE TO TAKE SELECTED SOUNDINGS
ON HOSTAGES PROPOSAL AMB. SCHAUFELE CALLED AMB. LONGERSTAEY.

2. SCHAUFELE INFORMED LONGERSTAEY OUR UNDERSTANDING
THAT GOB WOULD TAKE NO FURTHER STEPS ON THIS MATTER
UNTIL US HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE MATTER AGAIN
(SEE PARA 4 REFTEL). SHCAUFELE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT
TAKING OF SOUNDINGS AT DELICATE PERIOD IN PROCEEDINGS
OF TERRORISM COMMITTEE MIGHT ENDANGER WHATEVER WE AND
LIKE-MINDED STATES INCLUDING BELGIUM MIGHT HOPE TO
SALVAGE FROM COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS.

3. LONGERSTAEY SAID HE ASSUMED THAT THOSE PRESENT AT
LUNCHEON MEETING AUG. 1 HAD GONE BACK TO DAVIGNON
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HOW HAD PROPOSED DISCREET SOUNDINGS IN NEW YORK.

LONGERSTEAY SAID HE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS START IMMEDIATE SOUNDINGS BUT WILL NOT BEGIN BEFORE MONDAY. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE MAY WISH TAKE UP WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AGAIN BUT WAS RELUCTANT TO DO SO HIMSELF. SAID HE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TAKE SOUNDINGS WITH OTHER 8 EC MEMBERS, INDIA, YUGOSLAVIA AND ZAIRE PLUS 2 LA MEMBERS SECURITY COUNCIL. FIRST MEETING HE HAS SCHEDULED IS WITH DUTCH ON MONDAY, FOLLOWED BY PERU ON TUESDAY AND ZAIRE WEDNESDAY, WHICH HE THOUGHT WERE ALL FAVORABLE TO OUR GENERAL CONCERNS ABOUT TERRORISM. SCHAUFELER POINTED OUT THAT ZAIRE IS MEMBER OF TERRORISM COMMITTEE AND WHATEVER PERM REP'S PERSONAL CONVICTIONS ARE HE WILL BE PUT UNDER PRESSURE BY OTHER AFRICANS. AND NON-ALIGNED.

4. COMMENT: UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN VIEW OF CLEAR ASSURANCES FURNISHED BY FOURDIN AUG. 1 WE STRONGLY URGE THAT BRUSSELS BE INSTRUCTED REQUEST POSTPONEMENT THIS ACTION AT LEAST UNTIL SITUATION IN TERRORISM COMMITTEE SOMEWHAT CLEARER.

5. ACTUALLY ON BASIS OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATTITUDES OF OTHER EC MEMBERS HERE WE SUSPECT RESULTS OF SOUNDINGS MAY WELL BE NEGATIVE AND WILL BE DESIRABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. HOWEVER WE BELIEVE THEY SOMEWHAT PREMATURE.
BENNETT

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